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11 April 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Support

Bob:

I am afraid that the remarks the Director made at on 23 March may be widely misunderstood. While the Director does feel that overt Agency personnel who have no cover status to maintain and protect can well express themselves informally and discreetly, as opportunities present themselves, as being proud to belong to the fine organization which CIA is, certainly he would not condone anything except the best security practices, which require the maintenance and protection of cover.

In order to set the record straight and to correct any misunderstanding, if indeed there was one, I suggest that in the very near future the speak briefly to the same group the Director addressed and convey to them the substance of my comments.

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L. K. White

Attachment:

Memo dtd 4 Apr 66 to DDTR fr DCOS, ISO, subj: DCI Speech

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EXCERPTS FROM SPEECH BY THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 23 MARCH 1966

- ". . . It is a separate and individual burden that where you can, and I think the regulations of the Agency are fairly clear on this, you have a responsibility to make known what you do and set an example by your personal conduct that will bring credit to the Agency. I think all too many of the Agency's employees, particularly at Headquarters, have a tendency to live a life of anonymity when they could well, if you will excuse the word, let the other people be witting as to what you do. I am confident that your own conduct, participation in civic affairs, and the fact that your normal lives that you lead would be a credit to the Agency. I have found a large number of people in the news media similarly have misconceptions about this organization. I have a number of friends in the news media; I have also some people who are not so friendly, but you can't win them all. Nevertheless, the tendency is to lambaste the Director.
- ". . . So it is that all of us from time to time have to endure these personal indignities which I think are passing in nature, but we do have this other overall responsibility to talk up the organization and by that I mean, if you are proud of being in this Central Intelligence Agency and I am, and where you can, say so. You will be surprised what a little esprit de corps that oozes out and spreads out among the people you know will do for this Agency. The Agency is not well thought of by a lot of people, by a lot of people who are taxpayers, and by a lot of members of Congress who would just love to get their hands on this outfit and be sure that it is being properly run. Now, they are well meaning, but so it is when we, each of you have a man in Congress; get to know him, and tell him about the good job that that outfit is doing. If you will just do a little self-salesmanship of the organization of which you are so proud to be a member, you will help immensely. I expect there are only a very few in this room that know the number of employees of the Agency, but I can say that there are enough of you that if you will carry this out, within the bounds of propriety, you will materially improve the image of this wonderful organization called the Central Intelligence Agency. You don't have to be boastful or a braggard, but you can be